Roil Back in the prices of essential commodities

2671. SHRI SURESH KALMADI :

MISS FRIDA TOPNA :

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering proposals to roll back the recent hefty increases in the prices of LPG, Kerosene and other essential commodities, which put enormous burden on the poor and the fixed income groups, particularly the middle class;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the views expressed by various State Governments on the subject?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government for rolling back prices of items which fall under administered price mechanism.

(c) Some State Governments have expressed their apprehension regarding the consequences of the increase in prices of administered items.

Misappropriation of Funds in Punjab and Sindh Bank

2672. SHRI AMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had received any complaint of misappropriation of funds in respect of M/s. Carda (India) Ltd. who had withdrawn Rs. 7 crore from Kailash Colony, New Delhi Branch during the period of Shri K.S. Chadha, the then Chief Manager, with the connivance of Shri S.S. Kohli, CMD of Punjab and Sindh Bank; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The complaint was investigated through the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) who have reported that various acts of omissions and conunissions on the part of Branch Manager Kailash Colony, New Delhi Branch of Punjab & Sind Bank had been revealed in the account of M/s. Carda (India) Ltd. These include irregularities in sanction/enhancement of limits beyond discretionary

powers, inadequate appraisals etc. The Bank has initiated major penalty proceedings against him in consultation with the Central Vigilance Commission. However, the RBI investigation did not reveal involvement of Chairman & Managing Director of the Bank in this case. Punjab & Sind Bank has filed suit for recovery of dues amounting to Rs. 474.38 lacs with Debt Recovery Tribunal, Delhi on 26-4-1999.

Visit of world Bank Team to Bangalore

2673 SHRI CM. IBRAHIM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Nineteen Member World Bank team visited Bangalore in February this year, for talks in relation to various projects for infrastructure development;

(b) if so, the extent of World Bank aid committed for different projects; and

(c) the terms of the aid and the Central and State Government's share therein?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) A multisectoral World Bank mission visited Karnataka on 3-4, February, 2000, to explore the possibility of taking up new projects in various sectors in the State with assistance from the World Bank.

(b) Since the preparatory activities are at a preliminary stage and since the procedural requirements for posing many of the projects to the World Bank have not been met, there is no commitment of World Bank assistance for these projects at this stage;

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Proposals formulated for Economic Development of the Country

2674. SHRI E. BALANANDAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of proposals formulated and initiated by Government for economic development in the country during the last three years under the New Economic reforms, State-wise; and